### A Short Chronology of the Museum of Modern Art, 1929-1968

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Program</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1929</td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>Founded by Miss Lillie P. Bliss, Mrs. Cornelius Sullivan, and Abby Aldrich Rockefeller (Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr.) to help people enjoy, understand, and use the visual arts of our time.</td>
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<td>1929</td>
<td></td>
<td>First work acquired, bronze torso by Aristide Maillol.</td>
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<td>1931</td>
<td>May</td>
<td>Memorial Exhibition: The Collection of the late Lillie P. Bliss; conditionally bequeathed in 1931, the collection was formally accessioned in 1934 at the time of permanent charter by New York State Board of Regents. The basis of the Museum collection of painting and sculpture.</td>
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<td>1932</td>
<td>May</td>
<td>Moved to town house at 11 West 53 St., part of present site.</td>
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<td>1932</td>
<td>Feb.</td>
<td>Modern Architecture: International Exhibition, opening presentation of Department of Architecture; first exhibition other than painting and sculpture; first to be circulated. Reference Library founded with 2,000 books.</td>
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<td>May</td>
<td></td>
<td>Murals by American Painters and Photographers; first showing of work by photographers.</td>
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(more)
1933
April
Department of Circulating Exhibitions established.

1934

1935 Film Library given working space by William S. Paley in CBS Building on Madison Ave.

1935
June
The Film Library (now called Department of Film) organized "to trace, catalogue, assemble, exhibit, and circulate a library of film programs so that the motion picture may be studied and enjoyed as any other one of the arts is studied and enjoyed;" first international film archive.

1936
May
Acquisition of 4 buildings on West 53 St.

1937 June
Temporary quarters in Time-Life Building, Rockefeller Center, 14 West 49 St., while new building constructed.

1938

1939 May 10
Opening of new building,
11 West 53 St. Philip L. Goodwin and Edward D. Stone, architects. Dedication by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

By 1940, 1,600,000 people had viewed 125 special exhibitions at the Museum, and Membership totaled more than 4,000.
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<td>1940</td>
<td>Department of Photography established with a basic collection and reference library - the first curatorial department devoted exclusively to photography in any museum.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1941</td>
<td>War activities through June 1945: film contracts with CIAA, Army, Navy, Air Force; special exhibitions, special traveling exhibitions, poster competitions, Armed Services Program, canteens and servicemen's parties, Veteran's Art Center, etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1945</td>
<td>War Veteran's Art Center established in rented quarters on Fifth Ave., between 53 and 54 St. Became People's Art Center offering courses for children and adults in 1948; moved to 21 West 53 St. in 1951; as The Art Center moved in 1964 to Garden Wing with entrance at 4 West 54 St.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1949</td>
<td>Summer Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Print Room opened.</td>
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<td>1949</td>
<td>March Junior Council founded, now numbering about 60 young men and women who operate the Art Lending Service, sponsor exhibitions and special presentations related to the Museum program.</td>
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<td>1950</td>
<td>In the second decade, from 1940 to 1950, 4,000,000 people attended more than 350 special exhibitions at the Museum, and membership rose to more than 8,500.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1951</td>
<td>Summer Grace Rainey Rogers Annex opened, 21 West 53 St. Philip C. Johnson, architect. Two floors equipped for Art Center classes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1951</td>
<td>Oct. Art Lending Service established.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1952</td>
<td>Jan. Long-range International Program of circulating exhibitions initiated by five-year grant from Rockefeller Brothers Fund.</td>
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1953
Spring
Abby Aldrich Rockefeller
Sculpture Garden opened,
designed by Philip C. Johnson.
Dedication by Trygve Lie,
First Secretary General of
the U.N.

Purchase of privately-owned
United States Pavilion at
Venice Biennale, Italy.

Acquisition of 27 West 53 St.

1953
International Council of the
Museum founded.

1954
Oct.
Whitney Museum building opened
at 20 West 54 St. (Acquired by
Museum of Modern Art in 1963.)

Garden Restaurant adjacent to
outdoor Sculpture Garden opened.
Philip C. Johnson, architect.

1955
First annual summer art classes
for children and adults held in
rented space at Amagansett, on
Eastern Long Island.

1956
Acquisition of Theater Guild
building, 23 West 53 St.
Used for offices.

1957
July
International Council assumed
sponsorship of the Museum's
program of exhibitions abroad.

1958
Apr.
Museum closed following fire.
15-30

June 2-
Museum closed for renovation.

1959
Nov.
30th Anniversary Drive launched,
with goal of $25,000,000 for
endowment, building, and program
expansion.

During the third decade, 1950 to 1960, almost 5,000,000 visitors saw 250 special
exhibitions at the Museum, and annual attendance mounted to more than 600,000.
Membership rose to almost 25,000, and the collections grew from 2,600 items in 1929
to almost 12,000.
March 1960
Announcement of gift by
Mrs. E. Parmalee Prentice
of two town houses at 5 - 7
West 53 St.

Dec. 1960
Institute of Modern Art formed
to assume responsibility for the
People's Art Center and other
educational services.

Summer 1961
Former barge purchased and
converted into Summer Art Center
for vacation art classes at
Amagansett.

In addition to above exhibition and office
space, storage facilities continue to be
rented in various warehouses in New York.

June 1963
Announcement of acquisition of
Whitney Museum building at 20
West 54 St. Now part of The
Lillie P. Bliss International
Study Center.

December 1963-64
Museum closed for construction
and remodeling.

May 1964
Opening of enlarged Sculpture
Garden and two new wings;
Edward Steichen Galleries and
Photography Study Center; Paul
J. Sachs Galleries for Drawings
and Prints; and Philip L. Goodwin
Galleries for Architecture and
Design. Philip C. Johnson,
architect. Dedication by Mrs.
Lyndon B. Johnson.

Jan. 1965
Opening of enlarged Abby Aldrich
Rockefeller Print Room.

May 1968
Dedication of North Wing, The
Lillie P. Bliss International
Study Center.

Between 1960 and 1968 some 5,500,000 people have viewed more than 185 special exhibi-
tions at the Museum, with annual attendance now at 1,000,000. The collections
include some 18,500 works and 3,500 films, and membership has grown to 38,000.

Additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, Department of Public
212-3200.